

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 /014 R

66611

DRAFTED BY EA/RA:RNETHERCUT:CHG

7/28/73 EXT. 23260

APPROVED BY EA/RA:RNETHERCUT

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R 281655Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149065

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CANBERRA CINCPAC
FROM BANGKOK 25 JUL 73:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 11426

E.OM 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO: AUSTRALIAN VIEWS ON FUTURE ROLE AND STRUCTURE

CINCPAC ALSO PASS POLAD

REF: A. STATE 144464

B. BANGKOK 9991

C. BANGKOK 11386

1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR CRITCHLEY AT JULY 20 COUNCIL REPS MEETING
CONVEYED FOLLOWING GOA VIEWS RE FUTURE ROLE AND STRUCTURE SEATO:
CIVIL SECRETARIAT

A) REDUCTION OF FUNCTIONAL OFFICES FROM FOUR TO TWO BY AMALGMATING
EXISTING OFFICES OF COUNTER-SUBVERSION/INSURGENCY, PUBLIC INFORMATION
AND RESEARCH, WITH CORRESPONDING STAFFING REDUCTIONS, INTO NEW
OFFICE OF SECURITY

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AND DEVELOPMENT; RETAINING OFFICE OF CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,

BUT RENAMING IT OFFICE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS;
B) EMPHASIS ON SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL MEMBERS BY ASSISTING WITH INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS OF EXTENT AND NATURE OF SECURITY/DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS, STUDYING AND ADVISING ON MEASURES AND TECHNIQUES OF REMOVING CAUSES OF INSECURITY AND INSTABILITY, AND CONDUCTING ON A MODEST SCALE ECONOMIC/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AID PROJECTS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE SECURITY AND STABILITY; AND

C) LIMITATION ON LENGTHS OF SERVICE OF INTERNATIONAL STAFF MEMBERS. (NOTE: AT JULY 20 MEETING COUNCIL REPS APPROVED PWG RECOMMENDATION THAT MAXIMUM LENGTHS OF SERVICE BE ESTABLISHED AS SIX YEARS WITH STIPULATION THAT, IN EXCEPTIONAL CASES, SECGEN MAY, AFTER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH COUNCIL REPS, REAPPOINT OR EXTEND TERM OF APPOINTMENT FOR FURTHER PERIOD OF LIMITED DURATION.)

MILITARY PLANNING OFFICE

A) WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL MILITARY PLANNING. (NOTE: IN DISCUSSION THAT ENSUED, CRITCHLEY INDICATED THAT HE WAS UNCERTAIN AS TO WHETHER THIS MEANT COMPLETE ABANDONMENT OF PRESENT PLANS, OR RETENTION OF PLANS BUT WITH NO FURTHER REVIEW OR UPDATING BEING DONE. HE STATED THAT HE WAS GOING TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF THIS POINT FROM CANBERRA.) AUSTRALIAN PWG MEMBER SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED EMBOFF THAT GOA MAY BE DISPOSED TO AGREE TO SOME ROUTINE, LARGELY COSMETIC UPDATING IF PRESSED BY RTG);

B) DISCONTINUATION OF SPECIALIST MILITARY COMMITTEES EXCEPT THOSE CONTRIBUTING TO CIVIL-ORIENTED WORK ON SECURITY/DEVELOPMENT (E.&., MEDICAL COMMITTEE);

C) CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN MARITIME AND OTHER APPROPRIATE EXERCISES HAVING UNEXCEPTIONABLE LOCATIONS AND SCENARIOS (I.E., NOT SPECIFICALLY TARGETED AGAINST PRC THREAT) AND AIMED AT IMPROVING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY;

D) PHASED INTEGRATION OF CIVIL SECRETARIAT AND MPO WITH REDUCTION IN MPO STAFF;

E) MINIMUM AND LOWER-KEY PUBLICITY FOR SEATO MILITARY ACTIVITIES; AND
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F) LESS FREQUENT MILADS' CONFERENCES (ONE A YEAR OR LESS) DIVORCED BOTH IN TIME AND LOCATION FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS.

2. AMBASSADOR CRITCHLY ALSO CONVEYED AGREEMENT THAT REVISED PROVISIONAL AGENDA BE PRESENTED TO 18TH COUNCIL MEETING FOR ITS APPROVAL (REFTEL B). (ALL OTHER MEMBERS HAD APPROVED AGENDA AT JUNE COUNCIL REPS MEETING).

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOA VIEWS GENERALLY ARE IN
CONSONANCE WITH OUR OWN RE FUTURE OF SEATO, PARTICULARLY IF GOA
WILL SHOW DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY RE MILITARY PLANNING TO ACCOMMODATE
MINIMUM THAI REQUIREMENTS. UNGER UNQUOTE ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE149065
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RNETHERCUT:CHG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973075/aaaaadpk.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; WITHDRAWN <16-Oct-2001 by eisnerah, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <01 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: MARR, SEATO
To: LONDON MANILA WELLINGTON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005